

Proposed Rubric for Evaluating K-2 Schools Under AZ LEARNs

Arizona State Board of Education Information Packet December 6, 2004

This memo presents a method for calculating AZ LEARNs profiles for K-2 schools. K-2 schools are schools that serve only grades kindergarten through second grade. Since the AIMS is not administered at any of the grades served by these schools, the AZ LEARNs profiles are based solely on the performance of the schools' second graders on the Stanford-9 test.

The method of calculating the profile for these schools is straightforward:

1. The average percentile ranks on the reading and math portions of the test are calculated for the most current year for each school's second graders.
2. The average percentile ranks for each school are added together, and
3. Compared to a scale to determine each school's label.

Example. In 2004, the average percentile rank for second graders in Gila Monster Elementary was 52 for math and 48 for reading. The two averages summed together yield $52 + 48 = 100$ points. This is sufficient for Gila Monster to be a performing school. (Please see the scale on the next page.)

NOTE. Since this method does not require more than one year of data. ADE will not apply the policy of a school having to be open three years in order to receive an achievement profile. All schools open in 2004 will receive a profile.

SETTING THE SCALE

The cutpoint for performing schools was set at the sum of 68--equivalent to the expectation that students in a performing school average in the 34th percentile in reading and math. It is equal to one standard deviation below the state average. In other words, underperforming schools are in the bottom 16 percent of schools compared to performance of second graders statewide.

The cutpoint for highly performing schools was set at the sum of 130--equivalent to the expectation that students in a highly performing school average in the 65th percentile in reading and math. It is equal to one-half standard deviation above the state average. In

other words, highly performing schools are in the top 31 percent of schools in reading and math compared to performance of second graders state.

The cutpoint for excelling schools was set at the sum of 150—equivalent to the expectation that students in a highly performing school average in the 75th percentile in reading and math. It is equal to one standard deviation above the state average. In other words, highly performing schools are in the top 16 percent of schools in reading and math compared to performance of second graders state. Table 1 on the next page illustrates the cutpoints for the K-2 schools.

There are 19 K-2 schools that will receive a profile this year. According to preliminary results, the method outlined above will result in 3 underperforming schools, 14 performing schools, 1 highly performing school, and 1 excelling school.

Table 1

Points	Achievement Profile
<68	Underperforming
68	Performing
130	Highly Performing
150	Excelling

BOARD ACTION: The ADE recommends that the Board adopt the method for calculating AZ LEARNS profiles for K-2 schools outlined above; including the cutpoints given in table 1, and waiving the policy of requiring that a school be open at least three years before receiving a profile.